

**City Council of the City of New Castle
Special Council Meeting at Town Hall
201 Delaware Street – New Castle
Tuesday – November 19, 2013 – 6:30 p.m.**

Call to order: 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call:

Councilperson Megginson
Councilperson Cochran
Council President Ratchford
Councilperson Petty
Councilperson Vannucci

Also present:

Donald Reese, Mayor
City Administrator Barthel
Daniel Losco, City Solicitor
Janet Carlin, City Treasurer
Marian C. Delaney, Finance/HR Manager

Council President Ratchford opened the meeting. The first item on the agenda was a discussion of the Police Chief interviewing process. President Ratchford stated that the City is very fortunate to have an experienced and dedicated police force for the City of New Castle. With Chief McDerby's retirement on October 31, 2013, the City is starting a process to select a new Chief; the goal being a fair and thorough process that results in the best candidate.

President Ratchford stated that Council has asked the City Administrator to work with local consultants to provide an outside perspective and to provide a process for the selection.

City Administrator William Barthel provided a brief overview of the process do far. Thus far in the process for hiring a new police Chief, discussion has been to bring in an outside committee. Mr. Barthel said that through the Mayor of Delaware City he was introduced to Jim Nolan, who has an extensive law enforcement background, and has worked as a consultant to many police departments throughout the country.

Mayor Green, of Delaware City came forward to answer any questions Council might have. Mayor Green gave a brief background for himself and Jim Nolan, and described the process that Mr. Nolan would follow. Mr. Nolan would begin by interviewing Council to find out what characteristics they are looking for in a Chief of Police, further, he would be able to use this information to suggest the best candidates from the applicant pool.

Councilperson Cochran said he was pleased to hear Council would be interviewed, he felt this was an important aspect of the process.

Mr. Barthel asked at what point would they like to start talking to Council. Mayor Green said that would be the first part of the process, and they would start that very soon. Council would be interviewed individually.

President Ratchford stated that it is important for Council to have a shared vision of what they want from the Police Department moving forward, and the interviews should help get to that point.

Mr. Barthel will meet with Mr. Nolan, and Mayor Green to set up a timeline.

Councilperson asked if there were any concerns with the Chief position regarding the union. Mayor Green stated that the Chief position was not in the union, so that would not be a concern.

Council thanked Mayor Green for coming in and explaining the process.

President Ratchford introduced the next agenda items by stating the two resolutions are related, the first is for a forestry grant funding opportunity for removal and maintenance of City trees. If Council votes to approve the first Resolution to apply for the grant funding, then they also need to set an urban tree canopy goal to be eligible for that grant.

The City has received a clarification letter from the Delaware Forrester Service regarding what an urban tree canopy goal is, and it is a good faith agreement that can be revisited, it is not a binding agreement.

President Ratchford called for a motion for 2013-45, a Resolution approving an application for the 2013 Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program. Motion was made by Councilperson Petty, and seconded by Councilperson Cochran. President Ratchford read the resolution. A vote was called, and the Resolution was passed unanimously.

President Ratchford called for a motion for 2013-46, a Resolution committing the City of New Castle to maintain and increase, as feasible, the Urban Tree Canopy. Motion was made by Councilperson Petty, and seconded by Councilperson Cochran. President Ratchford read the resolution. A vote was called, and the Resolution was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Burgmuller